

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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DRAFTED BY OES/NET/RD:JACOON:LMT
APPROVED BY OES/NET/RD:JBDEVINE
EUR/NE - RONALD WOODS
PM/NPP - GERALD OPLINGER
ACDA - CHARLES VAN DOREN
T/D - ED MCGAFFIGAN (SUBS.)
-----131903Z 107013 /43
P 131452Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TECH, SW

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON IAEA SALZBURG CONFERENCE

REF: STOCKHOLM 1894

1. TEXT OF DR. NYE'S SPEECH TO LUNCHEON GROUP ON MAY 2 AT SALZBURG WAS CARRIED IN WIRELESS FILE ON MAY 6. THIS PROVIDES USEFUL BACKGROUND ON OUR OVERALL NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.

2. QUESTIONS ON US APPROVALS FOR REPROCESSING OF US-ORIGIN FUEL (PARAS 2-6 REFTL) CAME UP IN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING LUNCHEON. WE DO NOT HAVE TRANSCRIPT, BUT SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS REFLECT MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION.

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SINCE SWEDEN IS AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS AND HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH US IN FORUMS SUCH AS THE LONDON SUPPLIER GROUP, THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION IS PROVIDED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE EMBASSY AND ITS USE AS APPROPRIATE.

3. AS EMBASSY AWARE, THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERA-

TION PROVIDES THAT THE US MUST APPROVE RETRANSFERS AND REPROCESSING OF US-ORIGIN FUEL (KNOWN AS MB-10 APPROVALS). US POSITION ON RETRANSFERS FOR REPROCESSING SUMMARIZED

BELOW:

A. THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED THAT WE WILL INDEFINITELY DEFER COMMERCIAL REPROCESSING IN THE US.

B. APPROVALS OF RETRANSFERS FOR REPROCESSING IN EXISTING COMMERCIAL FACILITIES ABROAD WILL BE MADE ON BASIS OF A CLEAR SHOWING OF NEED, SUCH AS SEVERE STORAGE PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD AFFECT POWER GENERATION, AND WILL BE HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

C. WE WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT OF APPROVAL OVER DISPOSITION OF ANY DERIVED PLUTONIUM.

4. DR. NYE SAID NOTHING ABOUT DENYING SWEDEN ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL AND IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO USE FUEL AS HOST-AGE FOR POLICY CONCESSIONS BY RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. ON THE CONTRARY, FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY IS OUR RECOGNITION THAT WE MUST ASSURE ADEQUATE AND TIMELY SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR RECIPIENT COUNTRIES COOPERATING IN COMMON NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS. WE ARE NOW DEVELOPING PROPOSALS TO GUARANTEE FUEL SUPPLIES TO COOPERATING COUNTRIES AND WE HAVE ALSO DECIDED TO INCREASE US ENRICHMENT CAPACITY BY CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CENTRIFUGE FACILITY.

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5. WE ARE AWARE THAT MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SWEDEN, HAVE ASSUMED THAT REPROCESSING IS THE SOLUTION TO FUEL STORAGE PROBLEMS. WE DO NOT SHARE THIS ASSUMPTION AND WE ARE NOW DEVELOPING PROPOSALS TO ASSIST IN DEALING SAFELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH SPENT FUEL STORAGE. WE ARE FOCUSING ON WAYS TO HANDLE NEAR-TERM SPENT FUEL PROBLEMS DOMESTICALLY AND FOR FOREIGN CONSUMERS THROUGH MEASURES SUCH AS MORE EFFICIENT RACKING OF EXISTING REACTOR STORAGE BASINS AND AWAY-FROM-REACTOR FACILITIES. THE PRESIDENT HAS DIRECTED THAT ERDA VERY SUBSTANTIALY INCREASE ITS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS FOR BOTH LONG-TERM RETRIEVABLE AND PERMANENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE AND FOR WASTE DISPOSAL. IN THIS CONNECTION AND ALSO IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION, WE WILL BE EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL REPOSITORIES UNDER APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS.

6. FYI. WE RECOGNIZE THE URGENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACED

BY SWEDEN ON STORAGE AND WASTE DISPOSAL ISSUES. AS NOTED
ABOVE, WE ARE WORKING ON A SPENT FUEL STORAGE PROGRAM AND
ONCE DECISIONS ARE MADE WE WOULD HOPE TO HOLD EARLY CON-
SULTATIONS WITH SWEDISH OFFICIALS ON THEIR PROBLEMS.
END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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